

HATE CRIMES

The Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990 was enacted on April 23rd 1990, requiring the Attorney General to collect data on crimes exhibiting racial, ethnic, religious, or sexual prejudice. It was not until September of 1994 that the Act was amended to include biased acts against those with either physical or mental disabilities. The *2002 Uniform Crime Report* reveals that there were as many as 7,462 incidents, reported to the FBI in 2002 that were categorized as hate crimes. A small portion of these incidents (0.6%, or 45, in total) was disability-related, while the majority of them were race-oriented (49%, or 3,642, in total). Religion-oriented hate crimes were measured at 19% (1,426 in total), and Ethnic hate crimes at 14.8% (1,102 in total). Hate crimes based on Sexual Orientation were quoted at 17% (1,244 incidents), while Multiple-Bias incidents came to about 0.04% (3 in all).

"Hate Crime" is the common term for federal and state Civil Rights Violations. Hate crimes include any crimes principally motivated by hatred of another because of race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, handicap status, or gender. *All hate crimes would still be crimes even if the bias motivation were absent*; therefore, each hate crime listed below is also tallied elsewhere in this report.

In 2003, eight crimes were reported in Cambridge that could be classified as "hate crimes". The following is a chronological recap of the events that were reported:

1. The first hate crime of the year involved a white male who was seen by Harvard University Police blocking traffic and yelling an anti-homosexual remark at one of the motorists. The suspect was found by officers to be an intoxicated minor and was arrested.
2. In May of 2003, a man was punched and kicked in the face after coming to the defense of another man who had been called an anti-gay name by two males. The two suspects fled the scene.
3. While playing basketball at the Kennedy School Park, an African American young male was accosted by a group of white males with bats. One of the suspects brandished a

knife, used a derogatory term against the victim, and stabbed him three times.

4. In early August, a victim received a threatening phone call from another male who called him an anti-gay name. The suspect was dating the victim's ex-girlfriend at the time of this incident, and there had been problems previously between these individuals.
5. Again in mid-August, a group of white males and one black male accosted two young males with bats in Sector 1. The suspect from the July incident again brandished a small knife, which was confiscated at the time of arrest. In all 5 young males were arrested in this incident.
6. The suspect from incident 3 and 5 also confessed to assaulting two young Hispanic males using his fists, concurrently using offensive slang against the two victims.
7. In mid-September of 2003, a man was arrested for yelling anti-gay epitaphs at a victim and then for attempting to physically assault the victim. Police Officers were able to intervene and prevent the physical altercation.
8. At the end of October, a Cambridge Rindge and Latin School security director reported that the Haitian Club had received some mail with "KKK" written on it, and other threats including a swastika, and messages that read "white pride" and "you will all die."

Hate Crime Incidents from 1997-2003

